

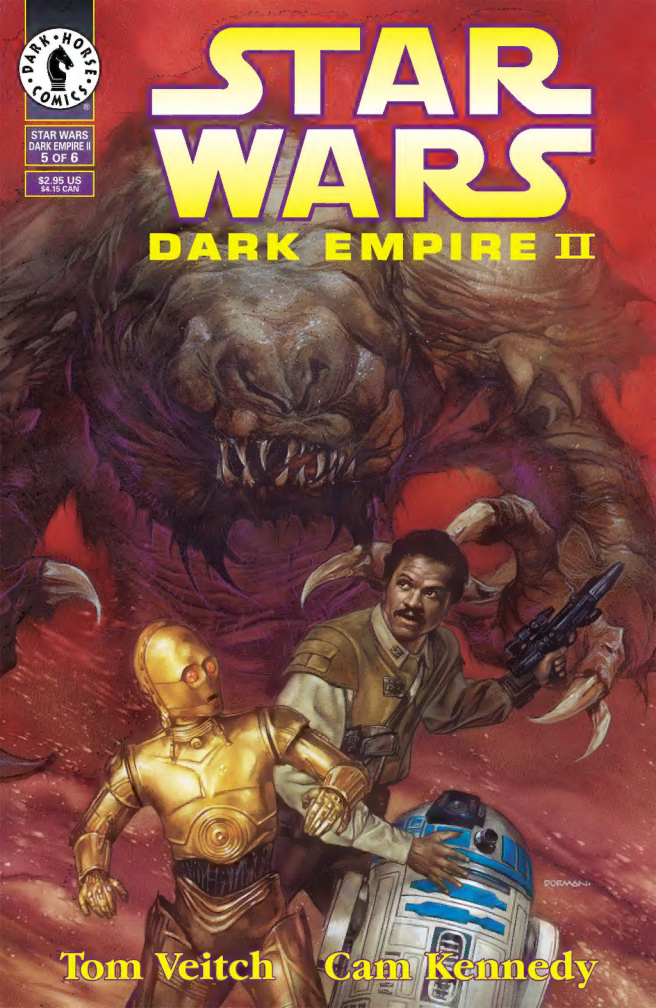


STAR WARS
DARK EMPIRE II
5 OF 6

\$2.95 US
\$4.15 CAN

STAR WARS

DARK EMPIRE II



DORMANI

Tom Veitch Cam Kennedy

STAR WARS®

DARK EMPIRE II

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The Galaxy Weapon

On the ancient Jedi planet Ossus, Luke Skywalker, Kam Solusar, and the young Ysanna warriors Jem and Rayf explore an ancient library. Luke finds a book on ancient Jedi Battle Meditation, a subject spoken of by Obi-Wan Kenobi, about which Luke has learned little.

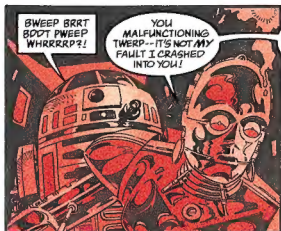
Luke asks the Ysanna tribe to join him and become Jedi Knights. The chiefs refuse, but they allow both Jem and Rayf to leave Ossus with Luke — as his Jedi apprentices.

Elsewhere, as the Millenium Falcon departs Nar Shaddaa, Boba Fett's Slave I appears out of nowhere, catching the Falcon with its shields down. Fett's firepower finds its mark, and the seriously damaged Falcon careens into a radioactive, interstellar gas cloud.

Emerging on the other side of the gas cloud, Han, Leia, and Chewbacca behold an unexpected sight: a massive, antique, steam-powered spacecraft. An entire race of people — the Ganathians — live cut off from the rest of the galaxy by the gas cloud. Their ruler is a Jedi, Empatojayos Brand, who has hidden here for decades from the wrath of the Empire.

Jedi Brand, who suffered terrible loss of limb in a battle with Darth Vader, wears complex life-support systems and high-tech prosthetics of his own design. Brand is overjoyed to meet Leia and Vima Da-Boda... and to learn of Luke Skywalker's plan to restore the Jedi Knights.

On Byss, Lando Calrissian's commando teams direct their powerful Viper Automadon war droids against the Emperor's citadel. But they are about to confront a new adversary from the Emperor's arsenal of dark-side surprises.



SWEEP BRRT
BOOT PWEEP
WHRRRRP?!

YOU
MALFUNCTIONING
TWERP--IT'S NOT MY
FAULT I CRASHED
INTO YOU!

IF IT HAD BEEN UP TO
ME, GENERAL CALRISSIAN
WOULD NEVER HAVE BROUGHT
US ON THIS INSANE
MISSION!

THANKS TO THE POWERFUL NEW
VIPER AUTOMADON WAR DROIDS,
LANDO CALRISSIAN'S TEAM OF REBEL
COMMANDOS HAVE ACCOMPLISHED
THE SEEMINGLY IMPOSSIBLE...

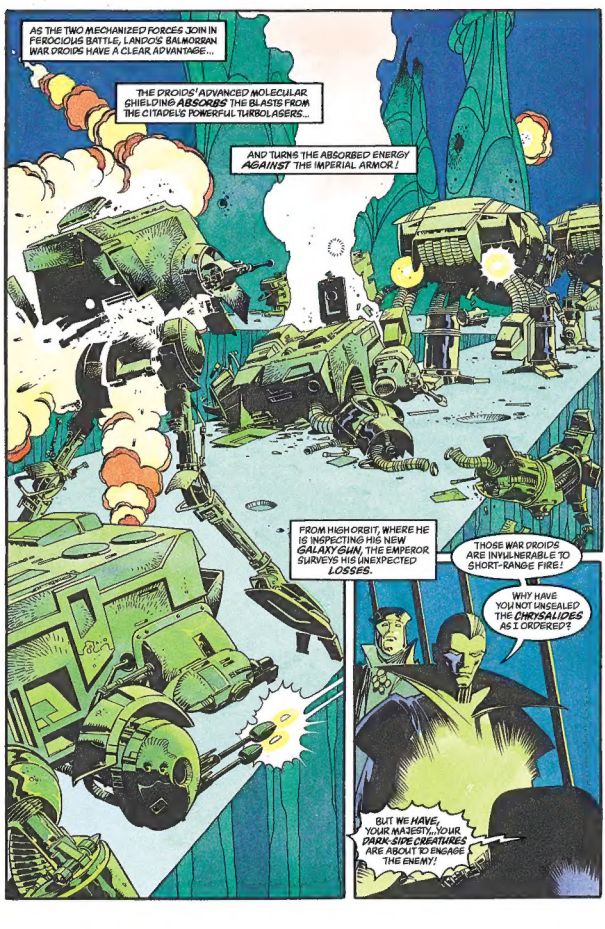


...THEY HAVE PENETRATED EVERY
ZONE OF IMPERIAL SECURITY
TO REACH THE HEART OF THE
EMPEROR'S DOMAIN!

ATTACK-PROGRAMMING
ON! ENGAGE MOLECULAR
SHIELDS!

GOT IT,
BOSS!

OKAY, TEAM...THE
ONLY WAY INTO THE CITADEL
IS ACROSS THAT MOAT! LET'S
TURN THESE WAR DROIDS
LOOSE!



AS THE TWO MECHANIZED FORCES JOIN IN FEROCIOUS BATTLE, LANDO'S BALMORRAN WAR DROIDS HAVE A CLEAR ADVANTAGE...

THE DROIDS' ADVANCED MOLECULAR SHIELDING **ABSORBS** THE BLASTS FROM THE CITADEL'S POWERFUL TURBOLASERS...

AND TURNS THE ABSORBED ENERGY **AGAINST** THE IMPERIAL ARMOR!

FROM HIGH ORBIT, WHERE HE IS INSPECTING HIS NEW **GALAXY 64N**, THE EMPEROR SURVEYS HIS UNEXPECTED **LOSSES**.

THOSE WAR DROIDS ARE INVULNERABLE TO SHORT-RANGE FIRE!

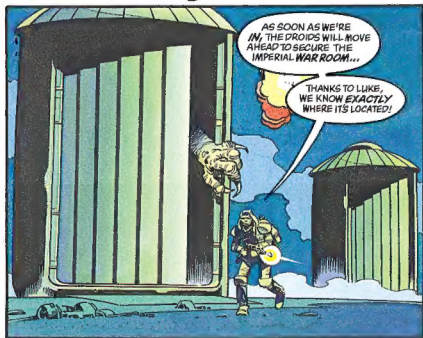
WHY HAVE YOU NOT UNSEALED THE **CHRYSALIDES** AS I ORDERED?

BUT WE HAVE, YOUR MAJESTY...YOUR **DARK-SIDE CREATURES** ARE ABOUT TO ENGAGE THE ENEMY!

REACHING THE CITADEL WALLS,
THE SEEMINGLY INVINCIBLE WAR
DROIDS BEGIN TO PULL DOWN THE
TURBO EMPLACEMENTS...

WHILE PRODIGIOUS TURBO-
LIFTS ASCEND SILENTLY FROM
SUB-SURFACE BREEDING PENS!

OKAY, REBS! TAKE
COVER WHILE THE DROIDS
RIP DOWN THE GATES!



THE EMPEROR'S ADEPTS HAVE
UNLEASHED **GENETIC
ABERRATIONS**...ALCHEMICALLY
BENT ON **DESTRUCTION**--

GRUHHRRARRK!

--MONSTERS BRED
FOR WAR!

NOBODY
TOLD US THE
EMPEROR HAD
A PRIVATE
ZOO!

GENERAL CALRISSIAN,
PLEASE TELL ME WHAT'S GOING
ON OUTSIDE! SOMETHING AWFUL
IS HAPPENING, I JUST KNOW
IT!

WE'RE STILL IN GOOD
SHAPE, THREEPIO -- ALL
PERSONNEL OUT OF THE
DROIDS AND TAKE
COVER!

WE'LL LET THE
AUTOMADONS FIGHT
IT OUT WITH THOSE
DEMONS!

THE NEW
MOLECULAR SHIELDING
MAKES THESE DROIDS
INDESTRUCTIBLE!



BUT THE WARDROIDS' SHIELDING IS
ENERGIZED BY INCOMING FIRE--
AND UTTERLY *USELESS* AGAINST
THE SAVAGE BRAWN OF THE MUTANT
BEASTS!

RUHARRARRK!

THE VIPERS
ARE GETTIN' RIPPED
TA SHREDS!

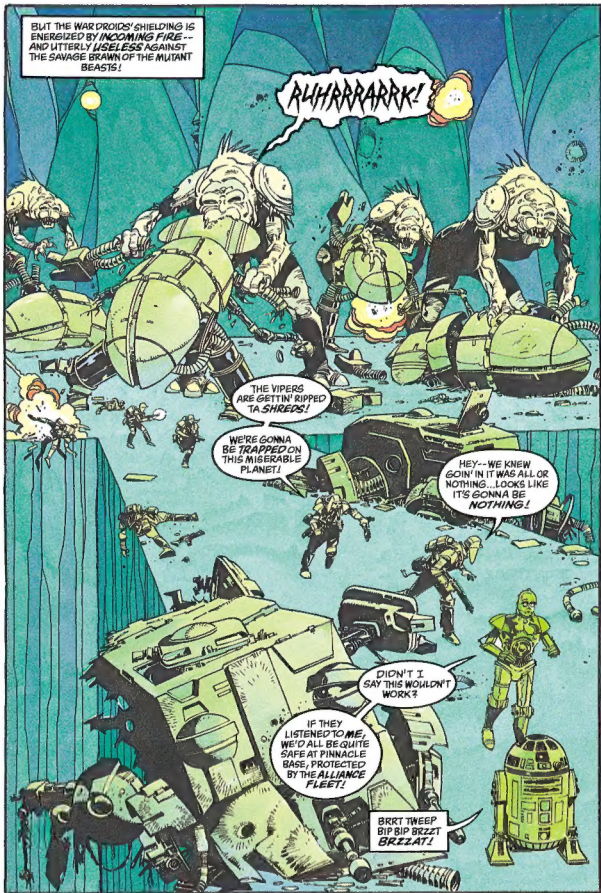
WE'RE GONNA
BE TRAPPED ON
THIS MISERABLE
PLANET!

HEY--WE KNEW
GOIN' IN IT WAS ALL OR
NOTHING...LOOKS LIKE
IT'S GONNA BE
NOTHING!

DIDN'T I
SAY THIS WOULDN'T
WORK?

IF THEY
LISTENED TO ME,
WE'D ALL BE QUITE
SAFE AT PINNACLE
BASE, PROTECTED
BY THE ALLIANCE
FLEET!

BRRT TWEET
BIP BIP BRZZT
BRZZAT!



THE REBEL FLEET IS HALF A GALAXY AWAY... BUT HELP MAY BE AS NEAR AS THE BYSS BISTRO!

TH' IMPS ARE SAYIN' THOSE WAR DROIDS ARE PACKED WITH REBELS.

THE EMPEROR'S WARBEASTS ARE MAKIN' GRAZER-HASH OUT OF 'EM AT THE CITADEL!

THE REBS! WE GOTTA DO SOMETHIN'!

WHAT CAN WE DO? IF WE TRY TO INTERFERE WE'LL BE EXECUTED!

LISTEN UP! SOME FRIENDS OF OURS NEED US -- ME AND SHUG ARE GONNA CHECK IT OUT.

ANYBODY WANTS TO COME ALONG IS MORE THAN WELCOME!

THE IMPS ARE PAYING US TO HAUL FREIGHT, NOT START A WAR... COUNT ME OUT!

SKNL TLK NH'ZZ T'R8 -- SKON VOT!!*

*MY BROTHER NHAZZ IS A REB -- COUNT ME IN!

SALLA FINDS A FEW VOLUNTEERS AMONG THE SMUGGLERS AND FREIGHTER CREWS WHO HAUL MILITARY HARDWARE TO BYSS...

...BUT IMPERIAL CHECKPOINTS HAVE BEEN SET UP EVERYWHERE IN THE CARGO TERMINAL!

HALT! LET'S SEE YOUR DEPARTURE PERMITS!

CREWS MAY RETURN TO THEIR SHIPS ONLY AFTER THEY ARE UNLOADED...AND ONLY WHEN THEY ARE ISSUED OFFICIAL DEPARTURE CODES.

SORRY, PAL--
WE AIN'T GOT TIME
FOR STINKIN' IMP
PERMITS!

THE YAKA LUWINGO MOWS
DOWN ARRIVING BACK-UP TROOPS
WITH A MEAN TRIPOD LASER
AS THE SPACERS SCATTER TO
TO THEIR SHIPS.

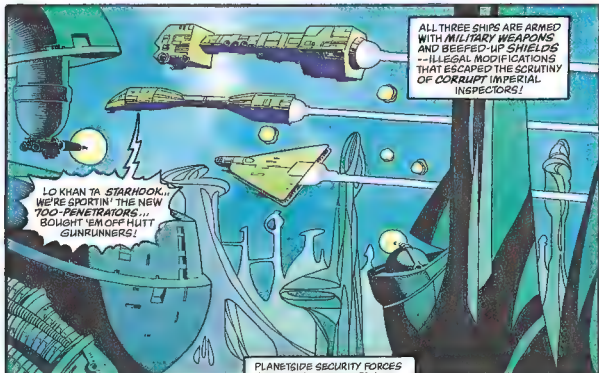
HDOOGKVA!

STARHOOK TO
BESPIN BANDIT--
YOU STILL GOT
THOSE ILLEGAL
ION GUNS?

WITH LUWINGO SAFELY ABOARD,
THREE FAST FREIGHTERS BLAST
FREE OF THEIR LOADING YOKES...

SURE DO, SHUG--
ENERGIZED AND READY
TO KISS THE EMPEROR!

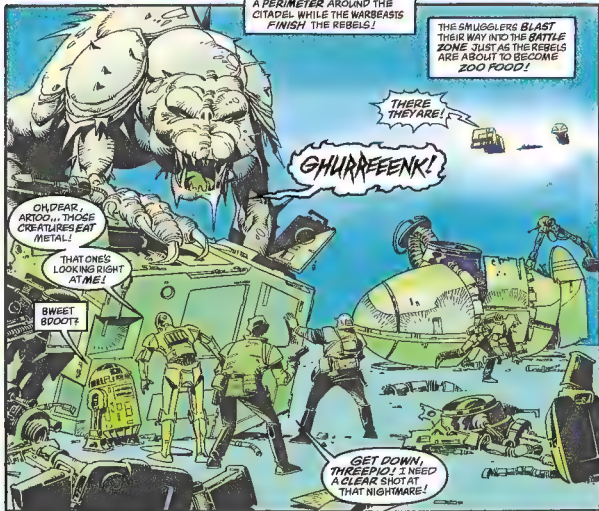
...LO KHAN'S HYPERSPACE
MARAUDER, SHUG NINX'S
STARHOOK TEN, AND UZ
BONEARM'S AGILE CORELLIAN
SHIP, THE BESPIN BANDIT!



ALL THREE SHIPS ARE ARMED WITH MILITARY WEAPONS AND BEEFED-UP SHIELDS --ILLEGAL MODIFICATIONS THAT ESCAPED THE SCRUTINY OF CORRUPT IMPERIAL INSPECTORS!

LO KHAN TA STARHOOK... WE'RE SPORTIN' THE NEW 700-PENETRATORS... BOUGHT 'EM OFF HUTT GUNRUNNERS!

PLANETSIDE SECURITY FORCES HAVE BEEN ORDERED TO FORM A PERIMETER AROUND THE CITADEL WHILE THE WARBEASTS FINISH THE REBELS!



THE SMUGGLERS BLAST THEIR WAY INTO THE BATTLE ZONE. JUST AS THE REBELS ARE ABOUT TO BECOME ZOO FOOD!

THERE THEY ARE!

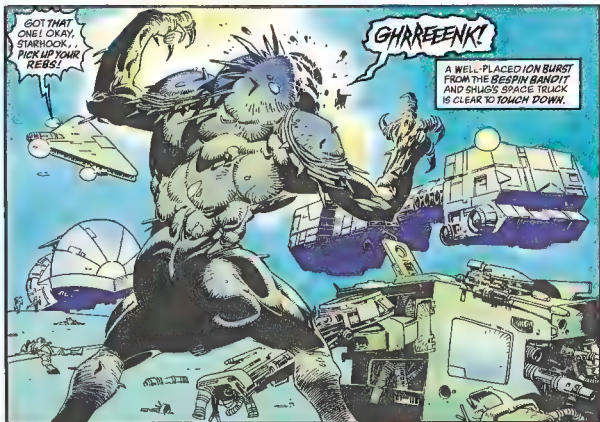
GHURREEENK!

OH, DEAR, ARTOO... THOSE CREATURES EAT METAL!

THAT ONE'S LOOKING RIGHT AT ME!

BWEEET
BWOOTZ?

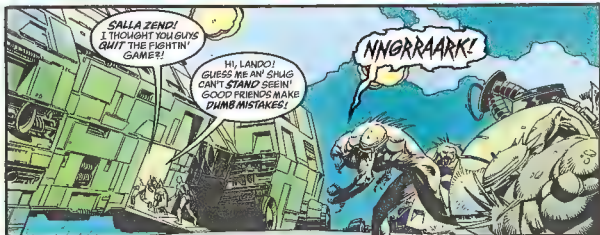
GET DOWN, THREEPIO! I NEED A CLEAR SHOT AT THAT NIGHTMARE!



GOT THAT
ONE! OKAY,
STARHOOK...
PICK UP YOUR
REBS!

GHRREENKI!

A WELL-PLACED ION BURST
FROM THE BESPIN BANDIT
AND SHUG'S SPACE TRUCK
IS CLEAR TO TOUCH DOWN.



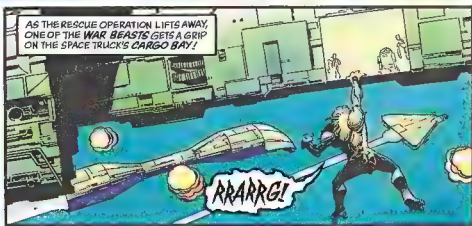
SALLA ZEND!
I THOUGHT YOU GUYS
QUIT THE FIGHTIN'
GAME?!

HI, LANDO!
GUESS ME AN' SHUG
CAN'T STAND SEEN!
GOOD FRIENDS MAKE
DUMB MISTAKES!

NNGRRRAARK!



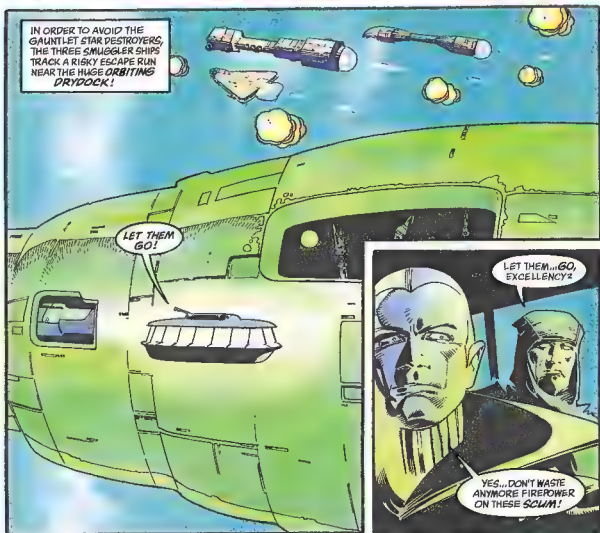
OKAY, SHUGGY--
WE GOT THE LAST
ONE...TAKE 'IM
UP!

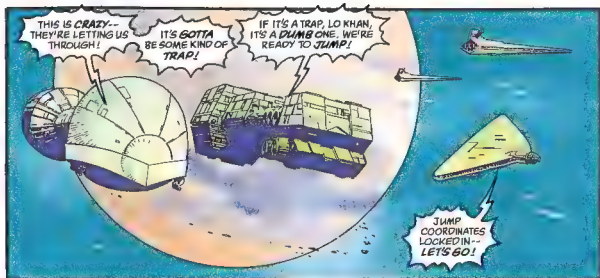


AS THE RESCUE OPERATION LIFTS AWAY,
ONE OF THE WAR BEASTS GETS A GRIP
ON THE SPACE TRUCK'S CARGO BAY!

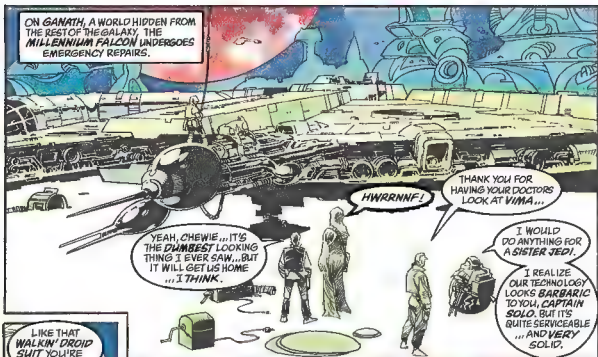
RRARRG!







ON GANATH, A WORLD HIDDEN FROM THE REST OF THE GALAXY, THE **MILLENNIUM FALCON** UNDERGOES EMERGENCY REPAIRS.



YEAH, CHEWIE... IT'S THE **DUMBEST** LOOKING THING I EVER SAW... BUT IT WILL GET US HOME... I THINK.

HWRRNFF!

THANK YOU FOR HAVING YOUR DOCTORS LOOK AT VIMA...

I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR A **SISTER JEDI**.

I REALIZE OUR TECHNOLOGY LOOKS **BARBARIC** TO YOU, CAPTAIN **SOLO**. BUT IT'S QUITE SERVICEABLE... AND **VERY SOLID**.

LIKE THAT **WALKIN' DROID SUIT** YOU'RE WEARING?



THIS "DROID SUIT" IS A **SOPHISTICATED SURVIVAL SYSTEM**. IT CAN KEEP ME **ALIVE** ON THE HOTTEST--OR COLDEST--PLANET IN THE GALAXY.

I COULD EVEN SURVIVE FOR A YEAR IN THE **VACUUM OF SPACE**!

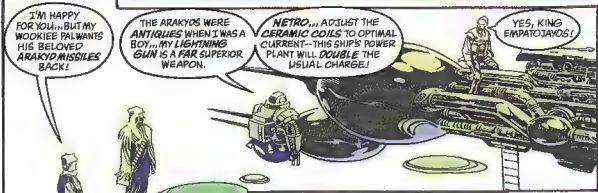


I'M HAPPY FOR YOU... BUT MY **WOOKIEE PALWANTS** HIS BELOVED **ARAKYD MISSILES** BACK!

THE **ARAKYDS** WERE **ANTIQUES** WHEN I WAS A BOY... MY **LIGHTNING GUN** IS A FAR SUPERIOR WEAPON.

NETRO... ADJUST THE **CERAMIC COILS** TO OPTIMAL CURRENT--THIS SHIP'S POWER PLANT WILL **DOUBLE** THE USUAL CHARGE!

YES, KING **EMPA TOJAYOS!**

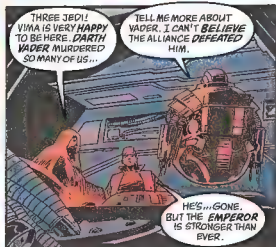
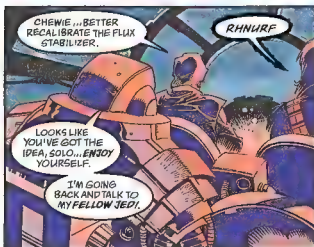
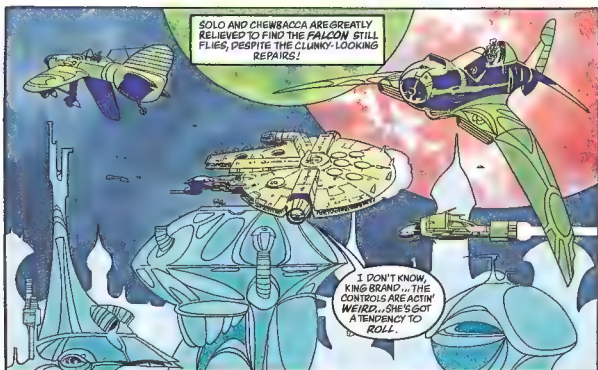


THE REPAIRS ARE COMPLETED, CAPTAIN **SOLO**.

WHY DON'T WE TAKE IT FOR A **TEST RUN**, **SOLO**. I'LL SHOW YOU HOW TO TRIM THE NEW **ACCELERATOR COMPENSATOR**.

WE'D BETTER GET **VIMA**. IF THE **FALCON** IS READY, WE'VE GOT TO LEAVE THIS SYSTEM AT ONCE!





KING EMPATOJAYOS BRAND--
HIMSELF A JEDI KNIGHT-- SENDS
WORD TO HIS MEN. HE WILL
ACCOMPANY THE VISITORS TO
MEET THE JEDI MASTER LUKE
SKYWALKER.

CAPTAIN USSOR!
INFORM THE COUNCIL OF
MY DEPARTURE!

I AM LEAVING
YOU IN CHARGE OF
THE FLEET UNTIL
I RETURN!

AS YOU
WISH, SIRE

SUBLIGHT SYSTEMS CHECK
OUT... CHEWIE, DIDJA RUN DIAGNOSTICS
ON THE HYPERDRIVE?

WHURRANN!

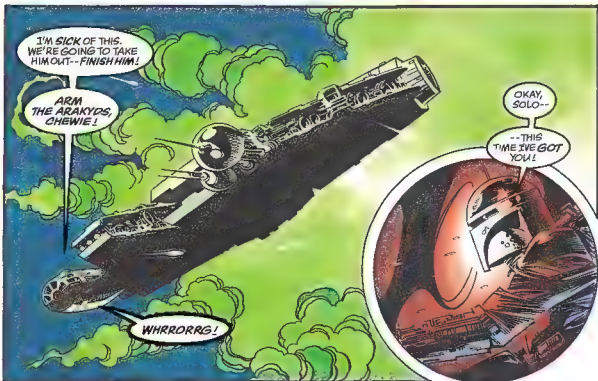
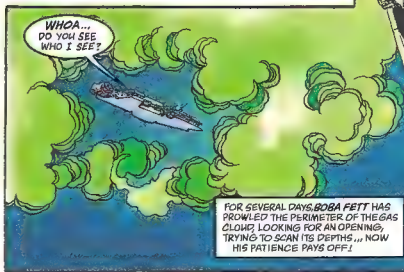
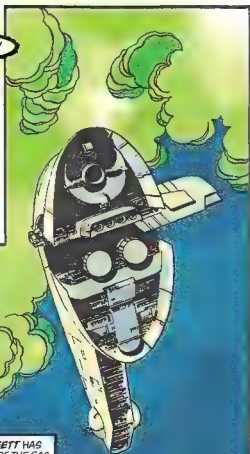
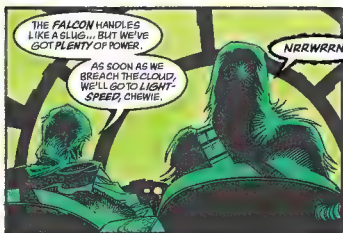
EVERYBODY BELTED
DOWN BACK THERE? WE'RE
HEADING FOR THE GAS
CLOUD-- IT'S GOING TO BE
A ROUGH RIDE!

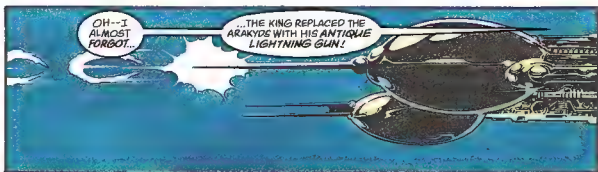
YEAH--
WE'RE READY,
HAN! LET'S
GO!

SURELY OUR KING
WILL RETURN. HE IS A
JEDI... A MAN OF
HONOR!

I SENSE KING
EMPATOJAYOS HAS
TURNED TOWARD A
LARGER WORLD...
AND A LIFE OF
FAR GREATER
RESPONSIBILITIES.

TILLERMAN!
FULL ABOUT AND
RETURN TO PORT



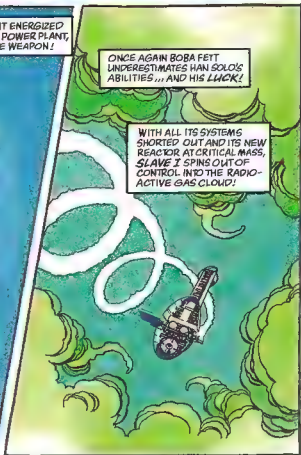


OH--I
ALMOST
FORGOT...

...THE KING REPLACED THE
ARAKYDS WITH HIS ANTIQUE
LIGHTNING GUN!



ANTIQUE, YES... BUT ENERGIZED
BY THE *FALCON'S* POWER PLANT,
A VERY EFFECTIVE WEAPON!



ONCE AGAIN BOBA FETT
UNDERESTIMATES HAN SOLO'S
ABILITIES... AND HIS LUCK!

WITH ALL ITS SYSTEMS
SHORTED OUT AND ITS NEW
REACTOR AT CRITICAL MASS,
SLAVE 1 SPINS OUT OF
CONTROL INTO THE RADIO-
ACTIVE GAS CLOUD!



DIDJA SEE THAT
FLASH? I GOT A
FEELIN' WE'LL NEVER
SEE HIM AGAIN!

I'M GONNA
MISS HIM.
WHERE TO,
LEIA?

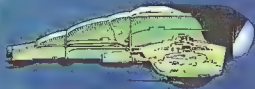


YOU
KNOW... THE
CHILDREN.

YEAH... SURE DO.
COORDINATES LOCKED.
HIT IT, CHEWIE... WE'RE
GOIN' TO...

...NEW
ALDERAAN!

HYPERSPACE.



LUKE SKYWALKER'S SHIP, THE **JEDI EXPLORER**, IS EN ROUTE FROM OSSUS TO PINNACLE BASE

RAYF YSANNA, ONE OF LUKE'S NEW APPRENTICES, IS LEARNING TO USE THE **JEDI WEAPON**.



THE KID'S A NATURAL WITH THE LIGHTSABER, LUKE

KNUTTA!

BE CAREFUL HOW YOU HOLD IT, JEM... THE LIGHTSABER WILL SLICE THROUGH ANYTHING.

MANY A BEGINNER HAS HURT HIMSELF... BADLY.



N'KAO KUTHA! LET JEM TRY!

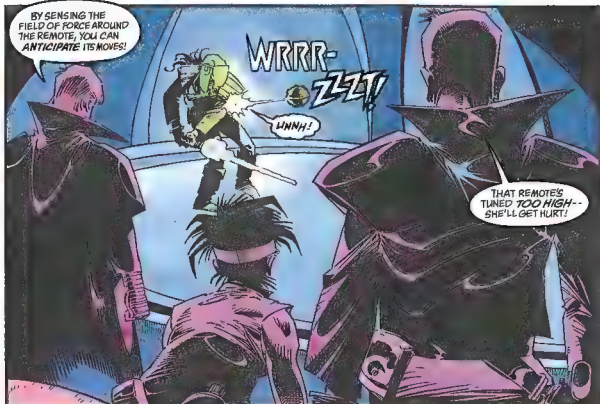
J'NA KE MAKAO! GIVE ME THE LIGHTSWORD!



HOW'S THAT, LUKE?



GOOD SO FAR... BUT BE CAREFUL! DON'T THINK ABOUT IT—JUST REACH OUT WITH YOUR FEELINGS.



BY SENSING THE FIELD OF FORCE AROUND THE REMOTE, YOU CAN ANTICIPATE ITS MOVES!

WRRR-ZZZT!

UNNH!

THAT REMOTE'S TUNED TOO HIGH-- SHE'LL GET HURT!

HIT BY THE REMOTE'S ELECTRIC STING, JEM YSANNA FEELS HER ANGER SUDDENLY RISE.

SHRRMMING!



I... I'M SORRY, LUKE. I RUINED YOUR REMOTE

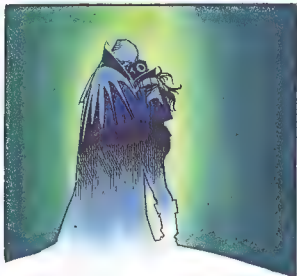
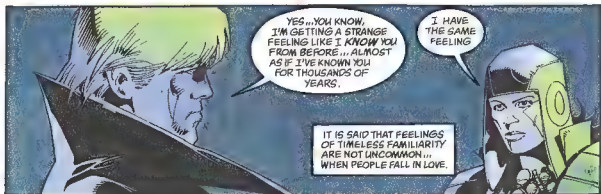
THAT'S OKAY. COME INTO THE GALLEY-- WE'LL TAKE CARE OF YOUR WOUND. IT'S NOT SERIOUS.



N'KOW! SHE REALLY DID A JOB ON THIS THING!

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THOSE TWO?

WHAT DO YOU THINK?



NEW ALDERAAN.

HAN AND LEIA'S TWO YOUNG CHILDREN, **JACEN** AND **JAINA**, HAVE BEEN KEPT HIDDEN FROM THE EMPEROR... ON A LUSH WORLD CODE-NAMED "NEW ALDERAAN."

DURING THE STRUGGLES THAT ERUPTED IN THE PAST YEAR, LEIA HAS SEEN THE TWINS ONLY TWICE... AND NO ONE EXCEPT **MON MOTHMA** KNEW SHE EVER LEFT HER POST IN THE ALLIANCE.

BUT NOW, AS THE BIRTH OF A **THIRD CHILD** APPROACHES, LEIA AND HAN HAVE ARRANGED TO GO INTO HIDING WITH THEIR CHILDREN, WHO HAVE BEEN UNDER THE CARE OF LEIA'S LIFELONG FRIEND, **WINTER**.

JAINA!
JACEN!

IT'S A JOYFUL REUNION!

ELSEWHERE, AS THE *JEDI EXPLORER* PREPARES TO EXIT *HYPERSPACE*, EVENTS OF A *TRAGIC NATURE* ARE ABOUT TO UNFOLD.

WE'LL BE AT PINNACLE BASE IN 53 SECONDS...

I'M GETTING SOME WEIRD SIGNALS. ANOTHER SHIP IS NEAR US IN *HYPER-SPACE*...

YEAH... HEADIN' FOR THE SAME COORDINATES AS US... AT A TREMENDOUS SPEED.

CRANK HER UP A NOTCH! WHATEVER IT IS, WE DON'T WANT A COLLISION.

SUDDENLY, THE FAMILIAR WATER WORLD *DA SOOCHA* AND ITS MOUNTAINOUS *FIFTH MOON* LOOM INTO VIEW.

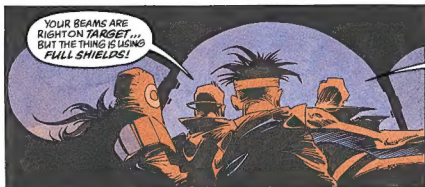
IXLLS! WHAT'S GOING ON?! IT'S LIKE THEY'RE ABANDONING THE MOON!

THERE IT IS -- COMIN' OUT OF *HYPER-SPACE*... IT'S NOT A SHIP! IT'S SOME KINDA PROJECTILE!

PINNACLE BASE... COME IN... THIS IS SKYWALKER...

THEY DON'T ANSWER!

HIT IT!
HIT IT!



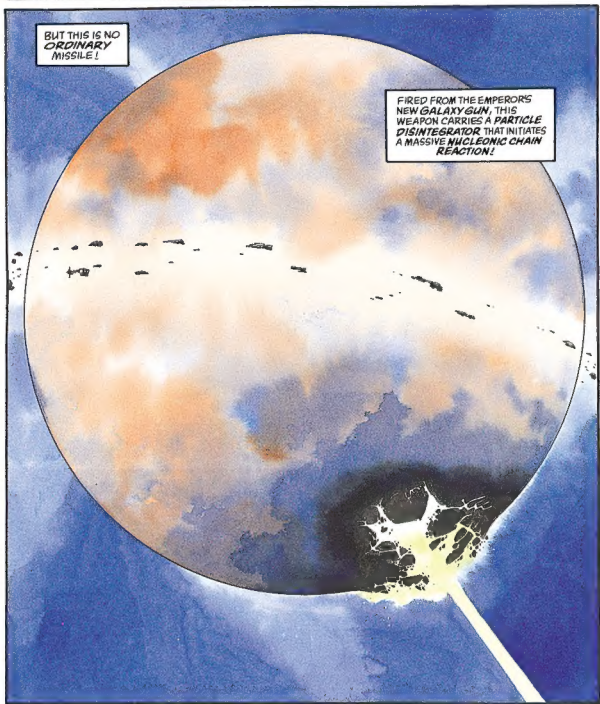
YOUR BEAMS ARE
RIGHT ON **TARGET**...
BUT THE THING IS USING
FULL SHIELDS!

**IT'S GOING
TO STRIKE THE
REBEL BASE!**

KEEP YOUR
FINGERS CROSSED, KAM.
**ONE MISSILE CAN'T DO
A LOT OF DAMAGE.**

BUT THIS IS NO
ORDINARY
MISSILE!

FIRED FROM THE EMPEROR'S
NEW **GALAXY GUN**, THIS
WEAPON CARRIES A **PARTICLE
DISINTEGRATOR** THAT INITIATES
A MASSIVE **NUCLEONIC CHAIN
REACTION!**



THE REACTION BUILDS QUICKLY
TO CATASTROPHIC LEVELS, UNTIL
EVERY MOLECULE OF THE MOON'S
ROCKY CORE BURSTS LIKE A
MINIATURE EXPLODING SUN!

PINNACLE MOON
IS NO MORE.

KAM...
THIS CAN'T
BE!

MON MOTHMA...
THE ALLIANCE...
ALL DEAD.

THE WORST
HAS JUST HAPPENED,
LUKE!

THE
ALLIANCE IS
FINISHED!

